

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 MC-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 COME-00

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R 051914Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6273

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

CINC EUR VAHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02039

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW, TU, GR

SUBJECT: FRG MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY

BEGIN SUMMARY: DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER'S FEB. 1-3  
VISIT TO ANKARA DEALT TO A LARGE EXTENT WITH THE FRG  
MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO TURKEY. THE GERMANS  
WILL SUPPLY SUCH ASSISTANCE UNDER A DEFENSE AID PROGRAM,  
A SURPLUS EQUIPMENT PROGRAM, AND WILL OFFER THEIR MOST  
MODERN EQUIPMENT TO TURKEY ON A COMMERCIAL SALES BASIS.  
IN PRESS CONFERENCES IN BOTH ANKARA AND BONN, LEBER MADE  
UNUSUALLY FRANK REMARKS ABOUT THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT  
WHICH THE US ARMS EMBARGO HAS HAD ON THE NATO  
ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. STUETZLE, DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER'S AIDE, PRO-  
VIDED US ON FEBRUARY 5 WITH A BRIEFING OF THE HIGH-  
LIGHTS OF THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S VISIT TO ANKARA FROM  
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FEBRUARY 1-3. STUETZLE SAID THE FRG INTENDED TO

CONTINUE ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY WHICH WAS REINSTATED LAST MAY. STUETZLE THEN DESCRIBED THE THREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITH THE TURKS. FIRST, UNDER THE HEADING "DEFENSE ASSISTANCE" (VERTEIDIGUNGSHILFE), THE FRG PLANNED TO PROVIDE TURKEY WITH ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF DM 100 MILLION. THIS AMOUNT WOULD CONSTITUTE THE 9TH TRANCHE OF SUCH FRG AID TO TURKEY. STUETZLE SAID THAT SPECIFIC NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS REMAIN TO BE HELD. HE POINTED OUT THAT, UNDER THE LAST THREE TRANCHES, THE BUNDESTAG HAD MADE AN EXCEPTION TO THE USUAL RULE OF PROVIDING HALF NEW EQUIPMENT AND HALF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT. IN THE CASE OF TURKEY, THE BUNDESTAG HAD GRANTED EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL AID PACKAGE AS NEW EQUIPMENT AND THE REMAINDER AS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT. STUETZLE BELIEVES THE CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT THIS WILL ALSO BE THE CASE UNDER THE 9TH TRANCHE.

2. THE SECOND FRG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF GRANT BUNDESWEHR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT. THE CURRENT SURPLUS PROGRAM CALLS FOR AN AMOUNT OF DM 60 MILLION AND WILL EXPIRE AT THE END OF 1976. DURING LEBER'S VISIT, THE TURKS INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO OBTAIN ANOTHER COMPARABLE AGREEMENT. STUETZLE SAID THE FRG STILL HAD TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GREEKS ALSO RECEIVED DM 60 MILLION IN SURPLUS EQUIPMENT FROM THE FRG.

3. THE THIRD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL PERMIT THE TURKS TO BUY THE LATEST MILITARY HARDWARE FROM GERMAN FIRMS ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS. TO OUR QUESTION WHICH EQUIPMENT THE TURKS WANTED TO BUY, STUETZLE RESPONDED THAT THEY WANTED EVERYTHING "NEW, EFFECTIVE, AND EXPENSIVE." STUETZLE SAID THE TURKS PRESENTED FMOD STATE SECRETARY MANN WITH A SHOPPING LIST DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO ANKARA IN DECEMBER. (COMMENT: STUETZLE DID NOT ELABORATE ON TURKISH DESIRES, BUT VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE TURKISH SHOPPING LIST INCLUDES 50 LEOPARD TANKS, 56 ALPHA JETS, HOT AND MILAN ANTI-TANK MISSILES, 100 MARDER ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS

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AND 4 SUBMARINES). STUETZLE SAID FURTHER THAT THE FRG WOULD PROVIDE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE BETWEEN THE GOT AND THE GERMAN ARMS MANUFACTURERS. HE CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY THIS WOULD EVENTUALLY INVOLVE, NOTING THAT THE TURKS COULD BUY AS MUCH AS THEY WANTED. (COMMENT: CITING MILITARY CIRCLES IN ANKARA, TWO GERMAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT THE FIGURE WOULD BE MORE THAN DM 1 BILLION.) HE SAID THE DEFENSE MINISTER

HAD TOLD THE TURKS THERE WAS NO POLITICAL IMPEDIMENT  
IN BONN TO SELLING SUCH EQUIPMENT TO A FELLOW NATO ALLY.

4. LEBER'S ANKARA VISIT HAS CAUSED QUITE A STIR IN THE  
GERMAN PRESS BECAUSE OF HIS REMARKS AT PRESS CON-  
FERENCES, FIRST IN ANKARA AND THEN REPEATED IN BONN,  
THAT THE US SENATE DECISION ON LINKING MILITARY AID TO  
TURKEY TO PROGRESS IN THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS WAS  
ENDANGERING THE SECURITY OF THE NATO ALLIANCE AND MADE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02039

A CYPRUS COMPROMISE IN THE FUTURE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.  
STUETZLE CONFIRMED A FURTHER PRESS REPORT THAT THE  
DEFENSE MINISTER GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT TURKEY  
CONTINUED TO BE BASICALLY WILLING TO COOPERATE IN A  
SENSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

5. COMMENT: WHEN THE FRG RESUMED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE AND TURKEY LAST YEAR, THE DEFENSE MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG COULD NOT FILL THE GAP LEFT BY THE CESSATION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THE GERMANS WERE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATION OF NATO'S SOUTHEASTERN FLANK AND TOOK THE DECISION TO RESUME AID EVEN THOUGH THE TENSIONS FROM THE CYPRUS CONFLICT HAD NOT FULLY ABATED. NOW, THE GERMANS SEEM TO HAVE MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO BE FORTHCOMING ON THE TYPE AND AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT THAT CAN BE PROVIDED TO  
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THE TURKS IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING US ARMS EMBARGO. WHILE IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH EQUIPMENT THE TURKS WILL BE ABLE TO PURCHASE ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS, THE GERMANS WILL NOT BE ABLE -- NOR IS IT THEIR INTENTION -- TO FILL THE GAP LEFT BY THE INTERRUPTION OF THE TRADITIONAL US-TURKISH MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP. END COMMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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